

# Anti-Corruption in OGP

Regional Focus: Africa and the Middle East

## OVERVIEW

OGP action plans have been an important vehicle to implement anti-corruption policies, strategies, and legislation, and to translate international anti-corruption pledges into domestic action. OGP countries in Africa and the Middle East continue to make many ambitious commitments to counter corruption, particularly in the areas of asset disclosure, beneficial ownership transparency, and public procurement. Turning these ambitious commitments into concrete results through effective implementation remains a challenge.

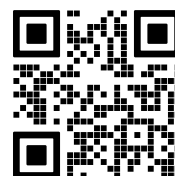
### Recommendations

The following recommendations represent a few examples of open government policies that reformers can explore to combat corruption.

- **Beneficial ownership transparency:** Reinforce legal frameworks requiring disclosure, publish data on a free registry, verify submitted information, use common identifiers to link data across datasets, and engage the public in monitoring.
- **Public procurement:** Publish data in open, standardized formats, engage the public and create citizen feedback loops, and consider prioritizing corruption-prone sectors, such as infrastructure and extractives.
- **Asset disclosure:** Require disclosure of a range of asset types, liabilities, and conflicts of interest from officials and family members, publish data in open formats with unique identifiers for individuals, establish public complaint mechanisms, and empower independent oversight bodies to verify data and enforce compliance.

## RESOURCES

OGP's new flagship report, **Broken Links: Open Data to Advance Accountability and Combat Corruption** (EN, ES, FR), presents the state of anti-corruption data in 67 OGP countries. The report includes region-specific findings for Africa and the Middle East and a Data Explorer to visualize the findings.



Anti-corruption policies provide an excellent return on investment. **The Skeptic's Guide to Open Government: 2022 Edition** (EN, ES, FR) outlines the benefits—in simple language—based on a rigorous literature review of the evidence in areas like open contracting, fiscal openness, and social audits.



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Open  
Government  
Partnership

## COMMITMENTS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM THE REGION

### Commitments

OGP members in the region are making some of the most ambitious anti-corruption commitments in OGP action plans, particularly around transparency of company beneficial owners and land owners. For example:

- **Beneficial ownership:** Seven countries in the region have made a total of 19 commitments, most of which reference open data principles.
- **Public procurement:** Most members (8) have made a commitment (28 total), several of which focus on the extractives sector. However, only two have produced strong early results so far, per the IRM.

### Research findings

According to OGP's recent *Broken Links* report (see QR code on reverse side), fewer than one-quarter of countries in the region publish data in key anti-corruption areas like beneficial ownership, political finance, asset disclosure, and lobbying. Public procurement is the only area assessed where most countries publish data. Ensuring that legal frameworks mandate data collection and publication is an important avenue for future reforms.

## LESSONS FROM REFORMERS



### Côte d'Ivoire

As part of their 2018-2020 action plan, Côte d'Ivoire began publishing annual Citizens' Budgets. These communal budgets allow people to express their real needs and priorities. The published Citizens' Budgets are a simplified version of the State Budget, with accessible language and illustrations.



### Kenya

After Kenya began prioritizing public procurement reform in its action plans, civil society has collaborated with the Auditor General's Office to track the misuse of public funds and identify risks for future losses. Kenya also committed to further opening up procurement bids by requiring that 30% of public procurement opportunities be awarded to women, youth, or people with disabilities.



### Nigeria

In 2019, Nigeria passed a law to not only require the collection of company beneficial ownership data for the extractives industry, but also to publish the data in an open register according to international standards. In August 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the new registry into law.



### Senegal

As part of their first OGP action plan (2021-2023), Senegal is currently committed to implement several anti-corruption measures, including introducing sanctions for non-compliance with asset declaration obligations, better protecting whistleblowers, and strengthening the powers of the National Office against Fraud and Corruption.

